GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:13
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
FOOD CROPS PRODUCTION
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target of 212 million MT of food crops production during 2000-01;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether less investment, withdrawal of subsidies and squeezing the opportunity of using electricity in irrigation has badly affected the cultivation of food crops; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir. Against a target of 212 million tonnes of foodgrains for 2000-01, the production is expected to be 196.07 million tonnes as per the advance estimates released on 29.6.2001.

(b)&(c): Achievement of targets depends on a number of factors such as allocation of financial resources, performance of monsoon, technological developments, managerial skills of farmers, timely application of quality inputs, demand of different agricultural products, etc. The overall rainfall during monsoon 2000 was deficient by 8%. But the deficiency was accentuated during the subsequent seasons. The western parts of India especially Rajasthan, Gujarat andMadhya Pradesh faced acute rainfall deficiency as a result of which large areas faced moisture stress. Deficient rains adversely affected the irrigation potential also. The position of investment and subsidies is regularly monitored and decision is taken after duly taking into account the requirement of the sector, resources available and related aspects.

(d): To increase production in different parts of the country, the Government switched over from the conventional Schematic approach to Macro Management mode for providing assistance to States from November 2000. The scheme integrates 27 schemes into one Macro Management scheme for supplementation/complementation of States` efforts through work plans which gives flexibility to States to address the specific problems faced by them, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Besides, the Government also encourages farmers to increase production by taking various steps such as implementation of Minimum Support Prices Scheme, Market Intervention Scheme, procurement by public agencies and use of instruments of trade.